



ENTRY-LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING (ELDT)

Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators

Final Rule December 8, 2016

RIN 2126-AB66





ELDT FINAL RULE SUMMARY

- Beginning on February 6, 2020, the rule requires an applicant for a new or upgraded interstate or intrastate commercial driver's license (CDL) or a hazardous materials ("H"), passenger ("P") or school bus ("S") endorsement to have successfully completed Entry-Level Driver Training (including theory and behind-the-wheel (BTW) instruction) at a training provider/training entity listed on the Agency's Training Provider Registry (TPR).





WHO MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE TRAINING?

- **“Entry-level driver” means a person who must complete the CDL knowledge and/or skills test requirements under 49 CFR 383.71 prior to (1) receiving the initial CDL, (2) upgrading a Class B or C CDL, or (3) obtaining a hazardous materials, passenger or school bus endorsement.**
- **This definition does not include individuals for whom States have the discretion to waive the CDL skills test under 49 CFR 383.**



WHO IS EXEMPT FROM THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS?

- **The rule applies to all entry-level drivers who intend to operate CMVs in interstate and/or intrastate commerce, except:**
 - **Drivers excluded from the CDL requirements under 49 CFR 383.3 (c), (d) and (h);**
 - **Drivers applying for a restricted CDL under 49 CFR 383.3 (e) through (g);**
 - **Veterans with military CMV experience who meet all the requirements and conditions of 49 CFR 383.77.**





WHEN MUST THEY RECEIVE THE TRAINING?

Beginning on February 6, 2020, the rule requires an individual to receive entry-level driver training (ELDT):

- Prior to applying for a CDL for the first time,**
- To upgrade to a Class A or Class B CDL, or**
- To apply for a hazardous materials, passenger, or school bus endorsement.**



COMMERCIAL LEARNER'S PERMIT (CLP)

- **Individuals who obtain a Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) before February 6, 2020 are not subject to ELDT as long as they obtain a CDL before the expiration date of the CLP or renewed CLP;**
- **Any CLP holder who fails to obtain the CDL within that period is subject to the ELDT requirements established in the final rule.**



WHAT IS THE MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIRED?

- **There are five separate curricula mandated in the ELDT Final Rule:**
 - Class A CDL;**
 - Class B CDL;**
 - Passenger (“P”) endorsement;**
 - School Bus (“S”) endorsement; and**
 - Hazardous Materials (“H”) endorsement**





ELDT CURRICULA

- **Core curricula for Class A/B CDL training programs (and endorsement training) include: (a) theory; and (b) behind-the-wheel (BTW) instruction, with BTW occurring both on a “range” and a public road;**
- **Theory – no minimum mandatory hours of training required; all curriculum topics must be covered and proficiency assessed.**



BTW TRAINING

- The final rule does not require any minimum number of BTW hours for the completion of the Class A and B CDL curricula;
- The proficient completion of the BTW portions of the Class A and B curricula is based solely on the training instructor's assessment of each driver-trainee's individual performance of the required BTW elements of "range" and public road training;
- All elements of the BTW curricula must be proficiently demonstrated while the driver-trainee has actual control of the power unit during a driving lesson on a "range" or public road.





BTW TRAINING FOR ENDORSEMENTS

- **The final rule does not require a minimum number of BTW hours for either the passenger (“P”) or school bus (“S”) endorsement curriculum.**





ELDT



- **Simulators/similar devices may only be used for theory portion of required training; (not as a substitute for BTW training);**
- **Full outline of required instruction/various curricula included in ELDT rule appendices;**
- **Curricula “framework” based on original Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Model Curriculum.**





WHERE MUST THE TRAINING BE OBTAINED?

- **Training providers that meet the requirements of the final rule are eligible for listing on the Agency's Training Provider Registry (TPR);**
- **Training providers “self-certify” that they meet these requirements. Examples of training providers/entities include: driver training schools, motor carriers, unions/organized labor or vendors.**



TRAINING PROVIDER REGISTRY

To be placed on FMCSA's TPR a person or institution must:

- Meet the applicable Eligibility Requirements;**
- Complete and submit (online) a Training Provider Registration Form; and**
- Affirm under penalties of perjury that they will teach the prescribed curriculum appropriate for that license or endorsement and that they meet the eligibility requirements.**





TRAINING PROVIDER REGISTRY

- **To be eligible for TPR listing, an entity must:**
 - **Follow a curriculum that meets the applicable criteria in Appendices A-E of Part 380,**
 - **Utilize facilities meeting the criteria in 380.709;**
 - **Utilize vehicles meeting the criteria in 380.711;**
 - **Utilize driver training instructors meeting the criteria in 380.713;**
 - **Be licensed, certified, registered, or authorized to provide training in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of any State where in-person training is conducted.**





TRAINING PROVIDERS

- **Theory & BTW training may be delivered by separate training providers;**
- **Both of these types of training providers must be listed on the Agency's TPR;**
- **Both would submit training certification information to FMCSA.**



HOW WILL A DRIVER PROVE COMPLIANCE?

- **Training providers transmit the training certification information to the FMCSA through the TPR;**
- **FMCSA will provide the relevant ELDT certification information through data elements added to the Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) that will be entered by the State Driver Licensing Agency (SDLA) directly onto the driver's record;**
- **The transmittal of ELDT certification information by FMCSA to the SDLAs will be entirely electronic through CDLIS.**



HOW WILL RULE BE ENFORCED?

- **FMCSA may remove a provider from the TPR when they fail to meet or maintain any of the qualifications established by the ELDT rule or the requirements of other State and Federal regulations applicable to the provider;**
- **There are a number of factors FMCSA may consider for removing a provider from the TPR.**





HOW WILL RULE BE ENFORCED?

- **A training provider that has received a notice of proposed removal and wishes to remain on the TPR must submit a written response to the Director no later than 30 days after the date of issuance of the notice explaining why it believes that decision is not proper;**
- **Alternatively, the provider will set forth corrective actions taken in response to FMCSA's notice of proposed removal.**



IMPLEMENTATION/ ROLLOUT OF ELDT FINAL RULE

- **The effective date of the ELDT final rule is February 6, 2017;**
- **Compliance date – States and CDL applicants must comply with the requirements of the ELDT rule on or after February 6, 2020;**
- **Compliance with current rule (49 CFR Part 380 Subpart E) will not be required on or after February 6, 2020.**



IMPLEMENTATION/ROLLOUT OF ELDT FINAL RULE

- **3-year phase-in period provides States with sufficient time to pass any implementing legislation that may be required;**
- **States need time to modify their information systems to begin recording training certification information onto the CDLIS driver record;**
- **3-year period also allows ample time for commercial driver training industry to develop and begin offering training that meets final rule TPR requirements.**





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